

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants submitted formal drawings, which were received by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on December 22, 2003. Applicants respectfully request Examiner's review and acceptance of the formal drawings.

LAW OFFICES OF
MACPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP

2102 Michelson Drive
SUITE 210
Irvine, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 10, 11, and 16 and canceled Claims 8, 9, 14, and 20 and therefore, upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-7, 10-13, and 15-19 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the application.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 14, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten Claims 1, 11, and 16 to include the limitations of their respective base claims (Claims 8 and 9, 14, and 20, respectively), as suggested by Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 11, and 16 are in proper form for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 2-7, 10, 12, 13, and 15-19, which ultimately depend on corresponding Claims 1, 11, and 16 are also in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, the following remarks regarding distinctions over the prior art do not apply to the just-described claims.

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11-13, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. RE37,195 to Kean [herein referred to as "Kean"] and Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kean

LAW OFFICES OF
MACPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP
3402 Michelson Drive
SUITE 210
Irvine, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049

in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,306 to Baxter [herein referred to as "Baxter"].

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 11, and 16 as suggested by Examiner and as discussed above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 11, and 16 patentably distinguish over Kean and over Kean in view of Baxter and that corresponding dependent Claims 2-7, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 17-19 are also distinguishable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11-13, and 15-19 be withdrawn and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claim 5 be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-7, 10-13, and 15-19 are in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested and a timely Notice of Allowance is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the application, please call the undersigned at (949) 752-7040.

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Fax No. 703-872-9306 on the date stated below.

Tina Kavanagh
Tina Kavanagh January 18, 2005

LAW OFFICES OF
MACPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP

2402 Michelson Drive
Suite 210
Irvine, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049

Respectfully submitted,

Greg J. Michelson

Greg J. Michelson
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 44,940